

view—by representatives of the government press, as the following will show:

With regard to the request of Manitoba for an additional federal subsidy in lieu of the ownership of public lands in the territory to be added, as in the cases of Saskatchewan and Alberta, the resolution provides that this question should be dealt with later, on terms to be mutually agreed upon by the provincial legislature and the federal parliament. The question of the provision for separate schools in the new territory is also left over, and the contentious details in this respect will be one of the big problems of the next session of parliament. The actual extension of the boundaries is thus postponed till next year, but the resolution paves the way, in so far as it determines the actual territory to be added to each province.

I thought it worth while to place before the House this expression of opinion which I find in the Manitoba 'Free Press' and the Toronto 'Globe' as to the motives which have influenced the government in merely bringing down the suggestion of boundaries and leaving the terms and conditions absolutely open for negotiations between the federal and provincial governments. We were promised in the speech from the Throne that legislation would be passed this session on the subject. That legislation, apparently, is not to be passed. That is due to one of two causes, either the government has not come to a conclusion as to the terms and conditions upon which it is willing to make the extension of the boundaries of the provinces, or it has come to a conclusion which it does not think expedient now to announce to the House.

So far as the lands and forests in the northern country are concerned, the Prime Minister appears to consider that the province of Quebec, or the province of Ontario, would be better able to deal with them than the federal government. I do not understand why a principle of that kind, applied to the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, would not be equally applicable to the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

With respect to the strip adjoining Newfoundland, there is very little information before the House to enable us to form any opinion. One would suppose that when it is necessary to have the assent of the Governor General and precise information upon going into Committee of the Whole upon a matter dealing with half a million acres of land, it would be equally necessary, and certainly quite as desirable in this case, to have laid upon the table of the House some map so that we could intelligently comprehend exactly the extension of the areas which is being proposed. The mere enumeration of those boundaries in the resolution of the Prime Minister gives us very little information indeed. Nevertheless, the House is asked to go into Committee of the Whole without having any map placed upon the table and without

Mr. R. L. BORDEN.

anything more than the very general statement made by the Prime Minister as to the disposition of a territory amounting in all, I suppose, to a million square miles. It may be that this matter will be open at another session. Properly speaking, I suppose the House will be bound by the terms of the resolution which we are asked to pass to-day. If that is the intention, I desire to say, in the first place that we have not enough information before the House to enable us to consider it intelligently; and in the next place, I think it would be proper that we should have gone into Committee of the Whole for the purpose of that debate, which cannot be obtained in a discussion on such as is proposed to-day.

With respect to the Newfoundland strip, it would have been wise to consider the possible entrance of the colony of Newfoundland into this confederation, and it might have been well to consider whether some portion of the territory which is proposed to be added to the province of Quebec should not be reserved for that eventuality, and whether some part of that territory at least could not be better administered by the colony of Newfoundland as a province of this confederation than it could be administered by the province of Quebec. In saying that, of course, I would have regard simply to the convenience and efficiency of administration. If it can be better administered by the province of Quebec, then it is eminently proper that it should be added to the province of Quebec; if, on the other hand, it could be more effectively and conveniently administered by the island of Newfoundland as a province of this confederation, it would be better to have it administered in that way. The Prime Minister has given us no information on that subject, nor has he apparently taken into consideration the possibility, and indeed the hope, that the island of Newfoundland may at no very distant day become one of the provinces of this confederation, and in that way round out into one great Dominion all the British possessions in the northern part of this continent. I have nothing further to say with regard to the resolution to-day, except again to express the regret that it has not been brought down earlier, that the government was not in a position to deal with the whole matter at the present moment, and that all the questions which have been alluded to in the comments of the government press are not brought before the House for its information and for determination at this session, as was proposed in the speech from the Throne.

Hon. DAVID TISDALE (Norfolk). I wish to say just a word in expression of my own views on this resolution. I do not think there is any present necessity for the disposition of the 400,000 square miles as proposed in this resolution, especially in view of my very strong desire to see the colony of Newfoundland enter this confed-